

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03751 221123Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 NSF-01 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 INT-05 PM-05 /051 W
-----018986 221126Z /13

P R 221057Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5865
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3751

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: TOCY MO
SUBJECT: R/V EASTWARD CLEARANCE REQUEST

REF A, RABAT 3623, B, STATE 154663

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT HEAD MUSTAPHA GHARBI JUNE 20 TO CONVEY POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL B. GHARBI SAID HE ACCEPTED ASSURANCES THAT PURPOSE OF R/V EASTWARD RESEARCH IS PURELY SCIENTIFIC, BUT REQUESTED SPECIFIC ASSURANCE THAT REPORTS PUBLISHED AND SIMULTANEOUSLY DISSEMINATED TO ALL PARTICIPATING PARTIES WOULD NOT CONTAIN SYSTEMATIC RESOURCE DATA, SPECIFIC COMPILATION OF OFF-SHORE RESOURCES NOR ASSESSMENT OF THESE RESOURCES. GHARBI ACCEPTED AND WAS NOT CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY THAT REPORTS MIGHT CONTAIN DATA OF TANGENTIAL INTEREST TO OTHER DISCIPLINES. ACCORDING TO GHARBI , SPECIFIC ASSURANCE SOUGHT ABOVE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT GUARANTEE OF SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS ON THE ONE HAND, AND MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION ON THE OTHER. HE INDICATED THAT GOM WOULD IN THIS CASE FOREGO ANY SCREENING OF REPORT PRIOR TO DISSEMINATION TO OTHERS. (CONDITION TWO IN MFA NOTE QUOTED REFTEL A IMPLIED SUCH SCREENING IN CASE OF REPORTS CONTAINING RESOURCE DATA.)

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2. COMMENT: GHARBI'S REQUEST APPEARS REASONABLE AND HE REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED HIS COUNTRY'S INTEREST IN MARINE RESEARCH. GHARBI, WHO CAN AT TIMES BE VERY LEGALISTIC AND ARGUMENTATIVE, APPEARED WILLING TO SETTLE FOR A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT OF SORTS AND DID NOT ATTEMPT TO LINK THE R/V EASTWARD CASE WITH LARGER LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES. EMBASSY JUDGES THAT GOM WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE RECEPTIVE TO REPETITION OF GENERAL ASSURANCES ALREADY CONVEYED, AND WOULD IN FACT CONCLUDE THAT

THERE IS MORE THAN MEETS EYE IN THIS EXPEDITION. FURTHERMORE,
BACKING OFF THE MISSION NOW, AFTER GOM HAS OFFERED WHAT IT BELIEVES
TO BE A COMPROMISE, COULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON FUTURE SCIENTIFIC
COOPERATION. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT TO EXTEND OUR
PREVIOUS ASSURANCE TO INCLUDE THE SPECIFIC REMAINING POINTS OF CON-
CERN TO THE GOM.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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